

HOUSE BILL NO. 509

INTRODUCED BY C. SCHREINER

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION; ESTABLISHING THE NATIVE AMERICAN AND RURAL YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION PILOT PROJECT; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO ADMINISTER THE GRANT PROGRAM; DEFINING SERVICES THAT QUALIFY FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM; REQUIRING REPORTS; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Native American and rural youth suicide prevention -- pilot project.

(1) There is a Native American and rural youth suicide prevention pilot project. The pilot program is a 2-year program. The purpose of the program is to use culturally based education, prevention, and intervention strategies to confront the risk of suicide in rural communities.

(2) The department shall administer a grant program to award four \$75,000 grants to four programs. The grantee programs must use culturally based, trauma-informed, evidence-based techniques to reach out to Native American and rural youth who are at risk for suicide or attempted suicide. The grantee programs shall develop culturally sensitive psychotherapeutic strategies for use with Native Americans.

(3) The grantee programs shall focus on the continuum of prevention, intervention, and post-event assistance to Native American and rural individuals and families and Indian tribes. The grantees must identify and meet the specific needs of the community where they are based. The grantees' programs must include a community collaboration component.

(4) To be awarded a grant under this section, in addition to the requirements in subsections (2) and (3), each program selected must provide one or more of the following services:

- (a) a 24-hour crisis line;
- (b) training to first responders about suicide protocols;
- (c) mental health crisis case management for a youth and the youth's family within 24 hours of identification of a crisis situation;
- (d) evaluation and assessment of a youth who seeks help from the program or who has been referred

1 to the program using a culturally appropriate trauma screening to determine the services that are available to best
2 meet the needs of the youth and the youth's family;

3 (e) a culturally based or trauma-informed, evidence-based program for suicide prevention to engage
4 Native American youth in a practice approved by the tribal community or in the community at large; or

5 (f) short-term residential crisis stabilization services.

6 (5) Successful grantees are encouraged to maximize the impact of the grant funds by leveraging existing
7 resources and forming partnerships with other state, local, and tribal entities.

8 (6) (a) Each grantee shall provide reports on the expenditure of grant funds, outcome measures, overall
9 program progress, and other criteria set by the department. The department shall determine how often the
10 grantees must provide the reports.

11 (b) The department shall compile the reports from the grantees and, pursuant to 5-11-210, present a final
12 report on the pilot program to the children, families, health, and human services interim committee at the final
13 meeting of the 2015-2016 interim. The final report must include the department's findings and recommendations,
14 including a recommendation related to ongoing funding and the viability of medicaid funding for Indian health
15 service providers.

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17 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated \$300,000 from the general fund to
18 the department of public health and humans services for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, for the purposes
19 described in [section 1]. Any remaining funds that are unencumbered as of June 30, 2017, must revert to the
20 general fund.

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22 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a
23 copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell
24 Chippewa tribe.

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26 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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28 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Termination.** [This act] terminates June 30, 2017.

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